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ON PAGE 1

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No real damage seen in latest spy cases

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The Soviet Union isn't the only nation willing to hire American spies to steal US secrets.

Israel, Pakistan, and China have apparently also been more than willing to pay Americans for classified reports and information.

The recently uncovered alleged espionage activities of Jonathan J. Pollard as an accused Israelie and Pakistani spy and Larry Wu-Tai Chin as an accused spy for China, point up yet another major challenge for American counterintelligence agents. At a time when United States intelligence is scrambling to keep up with an array of KGB-inspired spying operations in the

West, America is apparently being targeted by others as well, including one of its closest allies.

Spy allegations concerning Israel — if accurate — could strain US-Israeli ties. Israel is a major recipient of US military and economic aid.

Experts say it is not unusual for even close allies to use their intelligence services to remain accurately informed about developments in allied nations to prevent being embarrassed by sudden policy changes. But the accepted rules of conduct, experts say, usually preclude the use of recruited nationals and spies to steal highly sensitive documents and data.

In addition to close US-Israeli diplomatic relations, the US regularly shares intelligence data with Israeli officials. The Israelies are also able to use, to full advantage, their close relations to the US to, if necessary, personally discuss developments in the US with officials throughout the American government.

"The idea that in addition to that, they would try to acquire highly sensitive information is disturbing," says William B. Quandt, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution. "We need to make it clear to the Israelies that we consider [spying] to be an unacceptable practice in relations between the two countries," he added.

Mr. Quandt says he doubts the controversy over al-

leged Israeli spying in the US will cause significant harm to US-Israeli relations. "Three or four months from now, I would be very surprised that this had left any strongly negative impact," he says.

Likewise, Dr. Thomas W. Robinson, a China expert at Georgetown University, says he doesn't think the alleged spying of Mr. Chin will significantly sour US-Chinese relations.



Larry Wu-Tai Chin
arrested on spy charge

He says the episode is more important because it may help open the eyes of the American public and government to the fact that the Chinese — like the KGB — pose an intelligence threat to the US. He notes that China's intelligence service is but a shadow of the KGB in terms of manpower and sophistication. But Robinson adds that the Chinese are gaining momentum in targeting American technology.

At the same time, American counterintelligence has been gearing up to meet that growing threat. The investigation of Chin began in 1983, long before disclosures about the Walker spy ring and subsequent widespread doubts about US counterintelligence capabilities. Chin, 61, a former analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), was arrested Friday and charged with passing US

secrets to China since 1952.

In the case of Mr. Pollard, a 31-year-old analyst with the Naval counterterrorism unit, officials have said that his detection was triggered by fellow Navy employees who grew suspicious when he asked to see documents that didn't relate to his area of specialty. Pollard's arrest may have come in part as a result of a heightened awareness among government officials about the espionage threat to US national security.

The two recent cases bring to more than 10 the number of current or former government officials who have been accused or convicted of selling US secrets. In response to the recent spy cases, the Pentagon last week released the recommendations of a special commission that suggested increased use of polygraph tests to uncover potential spies. The commission also recommended offering financial rewards to encourage fellow employees to tip off authorities about persons who may be spying.

Chin, a naturalized US citizen and native of mainland China who retired from the CIA in 1981, was recruited as a spy by the People's Republic of China and received more than \$140,000 for his spying since 1952. Pollard, a Navy counterterrorism analyst, was arrested Thursday on charges that he sold classified documents and information to foreign agents. His wife, Anne L. Henderson-Pollard, 25, was arrested the next evening on the same charges. US officials are trying to determine how much sensitive information may have been compromised.